

RURAL DISTRICT OF MALMESBURY

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1950

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE AUTHORITY**

(a) Medical Officer of Health—

*(who is in addition Medical Officer of Health
for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and
Malmesbury and the Rural Districts of Calne
and Chippenham)*

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector—

R. S. PIERCE, C.S.I.B., Meat and Other Food Inspector's
Cert.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

D. B. FOXWELL, C.S.I.B.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Malmesbury Rural District Council.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950, based on Ministry of Health Circular 112/50 dated 6th December, 1950.

I am grateful to Mr. R. S. Pierce for his help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1950.

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	58,129
Population	.....	.....	10,469
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1950 according to Rate Book)	.....	.....	2,738
Rateable Value	.....	.....	£48,939
Sum represented by penny rate (estimated)	.....	.....	£202

			Male	Fem.	Total	Rate per 1000	Rate per 1000 E&W
Live Births							
Legitimate	...	...	95	74	169		
Illegitimate	...	...	3	6	9		
Total	...	...	98	80	178		
Birth Rate	...	...				17.0	15.8
Still Births							
Legitimate	...	...	3	2	5		
Illegitimate	...	...	—	1	1		
Total	...	...	3	3	6		
Still Birth Rate	...	...				0.56	0.37
Deaths							
Death Rate	...	...	65	57	122	11.6	11.6
Deaths from							
Pregnancy	...	...	—	—	—
Childbirth	...	...	—	—	—
Abortion	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year							
Legitimate	...	..	2	2	4		
Illegitimate	...	...	—	1	1		
Total	...	...	2	3	5		
Rate per 1000 live births	...	...				28.0	29.8
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age							
Legitimate	...	...	1	2	3		
Illegitimate	...	..	—	1	1		
Total	...	...	1	3	4		
Deaths from							
Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)			9	6	15		
Measles (all ages)	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	2	2	4		
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	6	1	7		
Heart Dis. and Blood Vessels	...	...	30	37	67		

The birth rate for 1950 shews a decrease as compared with the previous year when it was 19.7 per 1000 of the population. The death rate also has fallen slightly as compared with 1949 when the figure was 11.8 per 1000 of the population.

Whilst there were five deaths of infants under the age of one year during 1950, the relative death rate of 28.0 per 1000 live births is lower than the rate expressed for England and Wales which for the year under review is estimated at 29.8 per 1000 live births.

Deaths from all causes.

Cause		Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	.....	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (other)	.....	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	.....	0	0	0
Diphtheria	.....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	.....	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	.....	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	0	0	0
Measles	.....	0	0	0
Other Infective parasitic diseases	.....	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach)	.....	3	0	3
Malignant Neoplasm (lung bronchus)	.....	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm (breast)	.....	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (uterus)	.....	0	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms		6	4	10
Luekaemia, aleukaemia	.....	0	0	0
Diabetes	.....	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	12	13	25
Coronary disease, angina	.....	7	8	15
Hypertension with heart disease	.....	1	3	4
Other heart diseases	.....	7	10	17
Other circulatory diseases	.....	3	3	6
Influenza	.....	2	2	4
Pneumonia	.....	1	1	2
Bronchitis	.....	4	0	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	3	0	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	.....	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	7	7	14
Motor vehicle accidents	.....	0	0	0
All other accidents	.....	5	0	5
Suicide	.....	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	.....	0	0	0
Total		<u>65</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>122</u>

The above table has been compiled so as to conform with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning) occurring during the year 1950.

Disease		Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	.....	12	8
Diphtheria	.....	3	3
Whooping Cough	.....	22	0
Measles	.....	47	0
Poliomyelitis	.....	3	3
Typhoid Fever	.....	0	0
Pneumonia	.....	4	0
Dysentery	.....	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	.....	1	1
Erysipelas	.....	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.....	0	0

It will be noted from the above table that three cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year. One case was subsequently confirmed as non-paralytic, whilst the remaining two cases were finally diagnosed as Cerebro-spinal Meningitis and Tonsillitis respectively.

Detailed enquiries which were made concerning the confirmed case produced evidence that a daughter of the patient who had been in contact with a known case of Infantile Paralysis was probably responsible for the spread of infection.

The contact did not develop the disease.

The three cases of Diphtheria notified were not confirmed.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F
0								
1								
5								
15			2					
25	1	1		2				
35	1							
45								
55								
65								
and upwards								
Totals	2	1	2	2				

From the above table which shews the incidence of, and deaths from Tuberculosis occurring during the year, it will be noted that three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. In addition, four persons were found to be suffering from the non-respiratory form of the disease. These figures shew a slight increase of the incidence of Tuberculosis as compared with 1949 when a total of three persons were notified as tuberculous. It will be observed also that no deaths have been recorded during the year from Tuberculosis.

Mass Radiography.

During January, arrangements were made for the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit. A total of 797 persons from the Borough of Malmesbury and surrounding Rural District attended for examination. Of that number, four persons, *i.e.* three males and one female, were found to be suffering from tuberculous conditions, of whom one male in the age group 25/34 and one female in the age group 15/24 were considered to be suffering from active traces of the disease. The persons concerned were recommended Dispensary observation.

It is hoped there will be a greater response from the general public during 1951, when it may be possible to arrange for a further visit of the Mobile X-Ray Unit to the District.

Food Poisoning.

During May, 1950, an outbreak of food poisoning occurred at a Royal Air Force Station situated in the Rural District involving approximately 50 persons. Of that number, a total of seven individuals developed symptoms, the main clinical features being rapid onset of abdominal pain with vomiting.

Laboratory investigations did not establish definite proof of the cause, but it was considered probable that the poisoning was due to a Staphylococcal toxin; the most likely source of infection being from a food handler who suffered from boils.

In January, 1950, two isolated cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated. In both cases no pathogenic organisms were found to be responsible for the illness.

In July two cases of food poisoning were reported from Oaksey. The persons concerned developed symptoms of pyrexia, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. In these two cases infection may have occurred by the consumption of cracked duck eggs, but unfortunately specimens were not available for pathological examination.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

It was not found necessary to represent any cases for removal under the provisions of Section 47 of this Act during 1950.

Ice Cream.

During the year samples of ice cream from producers and retailers in the Rural District were submitted for bacteriological examination. All samples, except one, were considered satisfactory by the Pathologist. The unsatisfactory sample was produced by a firm operating outside the district, and details of the case were forwarded to the Local Authority concerned for necessary action.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following children have completed a full course of immunisation during 1950.

Ages 0 to 4—90.

Ages 5 to 14—131.

Total—221.

The total Immunised Child Population at 31/12/50 is as follows :

Ages 0 to 4—356.

Ages 5 to 14—1054

Total—1410.

Water Supplies.

1.—Existing Supplies.

(a) From sources maintained by the Council.

1. CRUDWELL. No shortage has been experienced during the year. Samples taken for bacteriological examination have shewn that slight to moderate pollution has taken place.

2. HULLAVINGTON. The supply from the Council's borehole has not been sufficient to maintain a supply to the whole of the village and has been augmented as necessary by water from the Air Ministry main on Hullavington Aerodrome. Whilst the water from the Air Ministry Main is chlorinated, the supply from the Council's borehole is not so treated. Supplies of the latter taken for bacteriological examination have shewn that intermittent pollution has taken place.

3. OAKSEY. During 1950 samples of this water submitted for bacteriological examination revealed that variable heavy contamination with faecal and non-faecal coliform organisms was occurring. In October a report was presented to the Council drawing attention to the condition of this supply, and to the immediate steps which had been taken to deal with the pollution. Certain measures were recommended to ensure a wholesome supply of water in the future. The installation of a Candy Chlorinating Plant during November, and close supervision of the day to day administration of the Undertaking brought about an improvement in the bacterial content of the water. Frequent bacteriological examinations will continue.

(b) Supplies taken in bulk from other Authorities.

1. From Cricklade and Wootton Bassett R.D.C.
Brinkworth, Dauntsey, Minety, Parts of Lea and Cleverton, Parts of Little Somerford, Parts of Great Somerford.
2. Malmesbury Borough Council.
Parts of St. Paul Without (S.B.D.)
3. West Gloucestershire Water Co.
Sherston Village.

(c) Areas supplied in detail by West Gloucestershire Water Co. as Statutory Undertakers.

Luckington, Sopworth, Parts of Norton and Foxley,
Parts of Sherston (Knockdown).

The above supplies are subject to examination and treatment at source. No shortages have been experienced.

(d) Private Supplies.

1. CHELWORTH. A small privately owned Undertaking supplies farms and cottages in the North of Crudwell Parish.

2. CHARLTON. The Charlton Estate provide a supply to Charlton Park and the Home Farms with a standpipe supply to Charlton Village.

3. BROKENBOROUGH. A small privately owned Undertaking gives a standpipe supply to the Village.

4. EASTON GREY. The Village is supplied from a small private Estate supply.

Distribution of Water by Public Mains.

Parish	Total No. of Dwellings Supplied	No. of Dwellings Supplied by Standpipe
Brinkworth	197	0
Brokenborough	30	0
Charlton	5	0
Crudwell	102	0
Dauntsey	92	0
Easton Grey	6	0
Great Somerford	42	0
Hankerton	1	0
Hullavington	125	0
Lea and Cleverton	84	0
Luckington	55	0
Little Somerford	10	0
Minety	185	0
Norton and Foxley	20	0
Oaksey	83	6
St. Paul Without	177	15
Sherston	323	50
Sopworth	30	0

2.—New Supplies.

CORSTON. As excavation proceeded a daily volume reaching a peak of 1,500,000 gallons was pumped from the spring.

With the commencement of works at the Spring Basin in July, 1950, frequent samples of the water were submitted for bacteriological examination. In the opinion of the Pathologist, the supply was subject to a varying degree of pollution with faecal and non-faecal coliform organisms. The pollution appeared to be greatest after heavy rain or flood conditions. During November and December reports were made to the Council setting out in detail the results of Laboratory investigation, and recommending the adoption of certain measures considered necessary to deal with the pollution. The supply is still subject to a variable degree of contamination with typical faecal and non-faecal coliform organisms.

The works of laying the mains in the Villages of Corston and Rodbourne and at Burton Hill have commenced, and a tender has been accepted for the water tower at Rodbourne.

3.

The above water supplies are not subject to plumbo-solvent action.

Report of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

Housing.

Number of houses inspected	.....	147
Number of Statutory Notices served	.....	1
Number of houses repaired by informal action		20

Council Houses.

Number of inspections of Council houses	652
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The disposal of drainage from the houses is as set out in the schedule hereunder :—

Parish	Address	No. of Houses	Means of Disposal
Brinkworth	The Street	8	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
Charlton	Vicarage Lane	2	Septic tank and filter bed
Crudwell	Tuners Lane	28	Settlement tank, filter bed and surface irrigation
Dauntsey	The Green	8	Individual cesspits
„	St. Johns	4	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
Great Somerford	Dauntsey Road	6	Individual cesspits
„	„	10	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
„	Winkins Lane	16	Septic tank and filter bed
Hankerton	Nr. Post Office	6	Septic tank and filter bed
Hullavington	Newtown	8	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
„	Greens Close	22	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
Lea	Main Road	12	Individual cesspits
„	St. Giles Close	14	Septic tank and filter bed
Little Somerford	Nr. Rly. Station	8	Individual cesspits
Luckington	Church Road	8	Individual cesspits
„	„ (new scheme)	4	Septic tank and filter bed
„	Bristol Road	8	Individual cesspits

Minety	Station Road	4	Individual cesspits
„	Sawyers Rise	12	Septic tank and filter
Norton	Foxley	2	Septic tank and filter bed
Oaksey	Wick Road	8	Individual cesspits
„	Bendy Bow	14	Septic tank and filter bed
St. Paul Without	Burton Hill	2	Sewer
„	„ Bungalows	12	Sewer
„	Exhibition Cott.	1	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
„	Corston	6	ditto
Sherston	Knockdown Rd.	12	Sewer
„	Green Lane	16	Sewer
„	Easton Square	20	Sewer
„	Church Close	4	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
„	Perretts Close	4	ditto
„	Church View	4	ditto

It will be observed that in this connection alone, there are 81 tanks which require periodical emptying and 18 plants which require attention.

Erection of Council Houses.

The following houses were completed during the year :—

Crudwell	12	} Cornish Unit
Lea	8	
Great Somerford	6	
Hullavington	12	Traditional

Houses commenced :—

Minety	8	Traditional
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Site Preparation commenced :—

Brinkworth

Number of Inspections of houses and sites 258

Charlton Park Camp.

The first conversion scheme, providing 32 units of accommodation, was completed during the year, and a second scheme providing a further 23 units was approved.

Number of Inspections in connection therewith 148

Private Enterprise Building.

ADMINISTRATION OF BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number of plans submitted for approval	.....	58
Number of plans approved	.....	57
Number of inspections for the purpose	.....	221

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

Number of applications	.....	82
Number of approved without conditions	.....	43
Number approved with conditions	.....	35
Number rejected	.....	4
Number of inspections for the purpose	.....	70

BUILDING LICENSING.

Number of applications for licences	.....	35
Number of licences granted	.....	32
Value of licences granted	.....	£18,587
Number of inspections for the purpose	.....	69

Water.

Samples from private sources were submitted for examination during the year and necessary action taken thereon.

Number of inspections re water supplies	70
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Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Sewers and small obsolete disposal plants exist in the following parishes :—Crudwell, St. Paul Without (Burton Hill) and Sherston.

Sewers but no treatment plants exist at Brinkworth, Hullavington, Lea, Luckington, Oaksey, Corston, Great Somerford, Little Somerford and Sopworth.

Number of inspections in connection therewith	46
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The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared an outline scheme for the greater part of the Rural District. Sites for disposal plants, etc., are being selected and detailed schemes prepared for the parishes of Brinkworth, Crudwell, Great Somerford, Hullavington, Minety, Oaksey, St. Paul Without (including Corston), Sherston and Sopworth.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Household refuse is collected fortnightly in Sherston and twice monthly in the remainder of the Rural District. The collection is carried out by direct labour and refuse is deposited at four tips—Brinkworth (owned by the Council), Oaksey, Sherston and Hullavington (by arrangement with the owners). Collections generally have been satisfactory and no serious difficulty has been experienced at the tips.

During the year the lorry covered 10051 miles on refuse collection.

83 inspections were made in connection with collection and disposal.

Rodent Control.

The refuse tips have been treated regularly for the destruction of rats and sewers show no infestation.

93 visits have been made in connection with this service.

Infestations.

Cases reported and dealt with were:—

Fleas	.....	.....	.....	1
Wasps	.....	.....	.....	1
Cockroaches	.....	.....	.....	1

Infectious Disease.

Investigations were made and the necessary action taken following reported cases of:—

Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	10
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	3
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	4
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	1
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	3

Nuisances.

Number of inspections	.....	.....	21
No statutory notices were served			
Number of inspections in connection with drains and drainage disposal	.....	.....	161

Food.

MILK.

By the Milk and Diaries Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, the supervision of Milk production and handling at the place of production was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Local Authority remains responsible for distributors only.

The number of milk distributors registered is	4
Number of inspections during the year	..... 12

BAKEHOUSES.

Five bakehouses in the district are clean and generally in good condition.

MEAT.

There is no slaughtering in the district, all meat being delivered from the Ministry of Food Central Slaughterhouse.

86-lbs. of beef were condemned.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

One fried fish shop is registered and is satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	.....	.....	.....	13
Number of inspections	.....	.....	.....	21

OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned :—

8-lbs. of tinned luncheon meat.

16-lbs. of bacon.

14 stones of fish.

SHOPS.

Number of inspections of food shops	47
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PUBLIC HOUSES.

Number of inspections of public houses	14
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Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M-c Line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	M-c Line No. (7)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	1	9	7	—	—	1
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	23	18	2	—	2
3. Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total		32	25	2	—	

2.—Cases in which **Defects** were found.

Particulars	M-c Line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M-c Line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total		2	2	—	—	—	



H. J. Riddick
Printer and Stationer
Malmesbury

